

For eighty-five (85) years the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has served the people of South Carolina. From its founding in 1921 by the late Dr. Wil Lou Gray, to the present day, the agency has educated and provided vocational and life skills training to thousands of citizens of our State. Throughout that time the agency has adapted its mission to meet the critical needs of the day.

The Opportunity School continues to offer traditional academic and vocational training, social and life skills improvement, and employability enhancement. The Youth Challenge Academy offers participants a structured lifestyle with an emphasis on becoming self-reliant through a disciplined, military-style environment. The Challenge Academy is premised upon leadership, teamwork and self-discipline as taught and modeled within a quasi-military framework. While the delivery method of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has been reshaped, our theme of motivating the "at-risk" student into a productive, employable young adult remains unchanged.

There are thirty-two similar Challenge programs operating in twenty-eight (28) other states throughout the nation. One of the performance measures used to evaluate the academic progress of the cadets is the Adult Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). The performance of our cadets on the TABE has been exemplary, which is reflected in our average growth rate.

As we prepare our cadets to return to their communities as productive citizens, they are exposed to many types of career choices. We have entered into an agreement with The Midlands Workforce Development Board where each cadet is afforded the opportunity take the WorkKeys assessment. This assessment is a tool that employers use to evaluate a variety of employments skills possessed by each cadet. We continue our partnership with Midlands Technical College, where selected cadets are given the opportunity to obtain three college credits, in addition to the GED.

We also participated in Harvest Hope Food Bank, Congaree River Clean-up, Cayce Riverwalk Clean-up, and many other activities that have made a positive impact on the community.

#### EVALUATIONS BY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Number of surveys returned	10	FORMS	FORMS
Satisfied with learning environment	90.0%	LOST	LOST
Satisfied with social and physical environment	90.0%	IN	IN
Satisfied with school-home relations	77.8%	SHIPMENT	SHIPMENT

## Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

3300 West Campus Road  
West Columbia, SC 29170-2195

Grades GED

Enrollment 296 Students

School Lead Instructor Mr. Joseph W. Davis, Jr.

Board Chair Mr. Russell Hart

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2006 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

**ABSOLUTE RATING** **EXCELLENT**

The school's performance substantially exceeded the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**IMPROVEMENT RATING** **GOOD**

**ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS** **N/A**

Definition: As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specifies that the statewide target is met for all students and for each subgroup of students: racial/ethnic, economic, disability, limited English proficiency and migrant status.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

## PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

Year	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2003	Good	Below Average	N/A
2004	Average	Unsatisfactory	N/A
2005	Excellent	Average	N/A
2006	Excellent	Good	N/A

## DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	DATA
GED Completion Rate	63%
Challenge Phase Completion	73%
Challenge Phase Dismissal	27%
Community Service Hours	62 hours
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) gains. Average Growth in Reading for those ineligible to participate in GED Testing	13 months
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) gains. Average Growth in Math for those ineligible to participate in GED Testing	19 months

END OF COURSE TESTS N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year
<b>STUDENTS (n= 296)</b>		
Average Daily Attendance (Cycle 00 1)	144	Down 1
Average Daily Attendance (Cycle 00 2)	111	Down 15
With disabilities other than speech	17%	Down 3%
Older than usual for grade	0	Same
Out-of-of school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	1%	Same
Annual dropout rate	27%	Up 3%
Meeting Presidential Physical Fitness Standards	100%	Same
Completing Computer Literacy	100%	Same
Dismissed following Pre Challenge Phase	27%	Up 3%
Percent participating in work-based activities	28%	Up 7%
<b>TEACHERS (n= 16)</b>		
Teachers with advanced degrees	100%	Same
Continuing contract teachers	100%	Same
Percent of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/R	
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0	Same
Teachers returning from previous year	100%	Same
Teacher attendance rate/days	185.5	Up 1.2
Average salary	\$50,964	Down \$234
Professional development days per teacher	10	Same
<b>SCHOOL</b>		
Lead instructor's years at the school	9	Up 1
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects (Cycle 00 1)	21 to 1	Up 3
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects (Cycle 00 2)	17 to 1	Up 1
Prime instructional time (Cycle 00 1)	97.4%	Up 0.4%
Prime instructional time (Cycle 00 2)	98.0%	Up 1.0%
Percent of expenditures for instruction	5.41%	
Dollars spent per pupil	\$22,415	Up \$2,005
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries	43.87%	Down 3.3%
Opportunities in the arts	74%	Up 4%
Parents attending conferences	100%	Same
SACS accreditation	No	Same

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample